Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 02107 081754Z

54
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 INRE-00 IO-14 EA-11 SAJ-01 SAM-01

DRC-01 EURE-00 /113 W
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O R 081700Z APR 74
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 439
INFO USIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION NATO

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 2107

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PFOR, BE
SUBJECT: PRESS REACTION TO PRESIDENT'S PARIS VISIT

REF: A. STATE 70190; B. BRUSSELS 2087, 2088 NOTAL

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: PRESIDENT'S MEETINGS WITH HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENTS ON OCCASION FUNERAL SERVICE FOR PRESIDENT POMPIDOU RECEIVED EXTENSIVE, GENERALLY STRAIGHT-FORWARD AND MOSTLY FAVORABLE COVERAGE ON TV, RADIO AND IN PRESS APRIL 8. PHOTOS SHOWING PRESIDENT WITH SOVIET PRESI-DENT PODGORNY AND OTHERS ARE FEATURED. RTB (FRANCOPHONE) RADIO REPORTED JOBERT AS IRRITATED BY PRESIDENT'S NUMEROUS CONVERSATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. PRESIDENTIAL MEETINGS ARE LEAD STORY OF IMPORTANT CATHOLIC DE FQANDAARD UNDER HEADING QUOTE NIXON PIVOT OF BUSY CONSULTATIONS IN PARIS UNQUOTE. PAPER IN REPORTING PRESIDENT'S BREAKFAST MEETING WITH PODGORNY SAID THEY DISCUSSED MATTERS TO BE RAISED AT JUNE SUMMIT MEETING IN
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PAGE 02 BRUSSE 02107 081754Z

MOSCOW. GEN. HAIG IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT BOTH STATES-

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

MEN TALKED ABOUT SALT, TRADE, AND MIDDLE EAST. NIXON-TANAKA MEETING WAS DESCRIBED AS DEVOTED TO WESTERN ALLIANCE AND ROLE JAPAN CAN PLAY IN IT. PRESIDENT'S TALKS WITH POHER, LEONE, BRANDT, WILSON AND HARTLING ARE SEEN AS CENTERED ON US-EUROPEAN RELATIONS. PRESIDENT IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO DEVELOP EUROPEAN UNITY TOGETHER WITH LINKS BETWEEN US AND EUROPE.

3. PROMINENT STORY IN INFLUENTIAL CONSERVATIVE CATHOLIC LA LIBRE BELGIQUE OBSERVES THAT PRESIDENT, IN TALKING WITH LEONE, WILSON, BRANDT AND HARTLING, MET WITH LEADERS OF EUROPEAN COUNTRIES MOST CONCERNED ABOUT DETERIORATION OF US-EC RELATIONS. PAPER QUOTES GEN. HAIG AS SAYING PRESIDENT UNDERLINED NECESSITY OF CONSULTATION BETWEEN US AND EUROPE AND DISCUSSED PREPARATION OF US-SOVIET SUMMIT, US EFFORTS IN MIDEAST AND ENERGY PROBLEMS WITH EUROPEAN LEADERS. ON NIXON-PODGORNY MEETING HAIG QUOTED AS SAYING THAT BOTH REVIEWED PROBLEMS FOR DISCUSSION AT MOSCOW SUMMIT: SALT, MIDEAST, BILATERAL RELATIONS ETC.

4. LEAD STORY IN IMPORTANT INDEPENDENT LE SOIR IS ENTITLED: QUOTE "LENGTHY EXCHANGE OF VIEWS IN PARIS BETWEEN MESSRS. NIXON AND PODGORNY". UNQUOTE SUBHEAD SAYS QUOTE EUROPEAN-US RELATIONS ALSO SUBJECT OF MANY DIPLOMATIC MEETINGS UNQUOTE. PAPER QUOTES HAIG COMMENT THAT SOVIET LEADERS WERE OBVIOUSLY SATISFIED AT PROGRESS OF DISCUSSIONS WITH SECY KISSINGER AND THAT BOTH LEADERS EXPECT POSITIVE RESULTS FROM UP-COMING SUMMIT. REPORT LISTS SUBJECTS DISCUSSED BETWEEN MESSRS NIXON AND PODGORNY, AND ADDS THAT WITH EUROPEAN LEADERS MR. NIXON QUOTE "SEEMS TO HAVE SPOKEN SAME LANGUAGE: NEED TO REINFORCE QUOTE CONSULTATIONS UNQUOTE BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND EACH COMMUNITY COUNTRY, WITHOUT EUROPEAN UNITY AND ATLANTIC UNITY, TO QUOTE HAIG...HAVING TO BE QUOTE MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE UNQUOTE.

5. FRENCH-LANGUAGE RTB RADIO REPORTED THAT PRESIDENT NIXON'S NUMEROUS CONVERSATIONS IRRITATED FRENCH FORMIN JOBERT.

6. LABOR CATHOLIC LA CITE PRESENTS AS COMMENT WIRE SERVICE DISPATCH, ALSO CARRIED BY OTHER PAPERS, STATING:
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QUOTE NUMBER AND DURATION OF DIPLOMATIC CONSULTATIONS HELD IN PARIS BY PRESIDENT NIXON SURPRISED THOSE WHO HAD INTERPRETED ABSENCE OF SECY KISSINGER AS PROOF THAT VISIT OF CONDOLENCE WOULD REMAIN STRICTLY FORMAL. IN FACT, DURING TWO DAYS MR. NIXON HAD OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE NEW IMPETUS TO AMERICAN PROJECT FOR REVITALIZING ATLANTIC ALLIANCE, THUS FAR SLOWED DOWN BY FRENCH GOVERNMENT. AND

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

TO DISPEL IMPRESSION THAT MR. KISSINGER'S VISIT TO MOSCOW HAD RESULTED IN FAILURE ENDANGERING POLICY OF DETENTE OF TWO SUPER POWERS. MOREOVER, MR. NIXON FOUND TIME SATURDAY AND SUNDAY TO MIX WITH CROWDS TO PROVE THAT DESPITE BAD REPUTATION WHICH WATERGATE GAVE HIM HE CAN STILL BE ACCLAIMED IN A FOREIGN CAPITAL. MOST JOURNALISTS ACCOMPANYING MR. NIXON REPORT THAT IN HOLDING THESE TEN-ODD IMPROVISED SUMMIT MEETINGS HE PRIMARILY WANTED TO SHOW TO THOSE WHO SEEK HIS REMOVAL FROM OFFICE THAT HE STILL PLAYS PRIMARY ROLE IN WORLD AFFAIRS UNQUOTE.

7. UNDER HEADING QUOTE A DIPLOMATIC SUCCESS FOR PRESIDENT NIXON UNQUOTE, AFTERNOON EDITION LE SOIR APRIL 8 CARRIES REPORT THAT:

QUOTE THE INTENSE ACTIVITY DISPLAYED BY THE US PRESIDENT DURING HIS SHORT STAY IN PARIS UNDOUBTEDLY HAVE ASSURED HIM RENEWED POPULARITY. TO SUCH DEGREE THAT MONDAY MORNING'S LE FIGARO CALLS MR. NIXON THE SUZERAIN OF THE WESTERN WORLD. IN THE US, REPORTS OF WHAT SOME ARE CALLING QUOTE OPERATIO
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Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ALLIANCE, PRESIDENT, POLITICAL STABILITY, NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, SUMMIT MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BRUSSE02107
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740079-0701
From: BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740460/aaaacchh.tel
Line Count: 131
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. STATE 70190; B. BRUSSELS 2087, 20, 88 NOTAL
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 MAY 2002 by bryansd0>; APPROVED <06 JUN 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS REACTION TO PRESIDENT'S PARIS VISIT
TAGS: PFOR, BE, XG, UR, (NIXON, RICHARD M)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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